

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP TREASURER BRENDA MCKINNEY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Brenda McKinney on the occasion of her retirement from Superior Township, Michigan, where she has served as Treasurer for over 25 years. Her significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Ms. McKinney has a long history of service to Washtenaw County, Michigan. In 1996, she retired from the Washtenaw County Treasurer's Office after 15 years of service. She decided to bring her wealth of knowledge back home and run for Treasurer of Superior Township in August of 1996. Ms. McKinney was successful. She made history as the township's first elected African-American treasurer and has been reelected every 4 years since. Responsible for managing the Township's funds and investments, she has modernized and improved the Township's tax collection and cash management systems. Her efforts to improve the functioning of the Treasurer's office will benefit the Township and its residents for years to come.

For the past 26 years, Ms. McKinney has been a crucial leader in Superior Township and has always been willing to step up to the plate. Recently, she worked with local leaders in ministry to ensure that all members of the community have access to the vaccinations they need to be healthy. When people are hungry, she makes sure they are fed and connects those in need to affordable housing and health care services. Active in charitable causes and serving on several humanitarian boards, she is a mentor to her fellow public servants and a friend to many. Everything she does is in service of her fellow neighbors, and the passion she has for her community is evident in her work. Ms. McKinney continues to reside in Superior Township with her family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Treasurer Brenda McKinney. We are grateful for her nearly 40 years spent serving the citizens of Superior Township and Washtenaw County. Her wisdom, experience, and caring heart has guided me in my own public service, and I am blessed to call her my friend. I join with Brenda's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to her in retirement.

HONORING THE PATRIOTIC SERVICE OF CHOC CHRISTOPHER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the lengthy public service career of Choc Christopher.

For the last eighteen years, Choc has faithfully served the students, teachers, and administrators of the Celina Independent School District as a Trustee. He has dedicated his career to expanding and improving education access for students of all ages in Celina, Texas. Moreover, he served as President of the Celina School Board for five years and worked on the Alla Hubbard Educational Trust Board for eight years. Choc leaves behind a powerful legacy that encompasses an efficient school administration, updated facilities, and expanded access to education. Generations of students, teachers, and administrators will benefit from Choc's extraordinary contributions to the Celina ISD community.

Mr. Christopher was instrumental to Celina ISD's rapid growth, and through his leadership, the students of Celina experienced brand new, state-of-the-art educational facilities and sports complexes. Choc is also a twenty-one-year member of the Celina Quarterback Club and had the privilege of operating the clock for Celina High School and Celina Middle School football games—his favorite pastime.

I have requested a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Choc Christopher's lifelong contributions to the good people of Celina, Texas. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I would like to personally commend Mr. Christopher for his years of dedication to Celina ISD. May God bless him in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING GUAM'S NATIBU DANCE ACADEMY ON THEIR 27TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Guam's Natibu Dance Academy (Natibu) for their exceptional talents, acclaimed performances, and outstanding commitment as ambassadors of our island community, CHamoru heritage, and vibrant Pacific region. I would like to further congratulate Dr. Benjamin "Benjie" Santiago for over 27 years of leadership in advancing the Hafa Adai spirit beyond Guam's shores by fostering the skills and passions of countless dancers through the Academy.

Impassioned with a mission to cultivate greater cultural diversity in dance, Dr. Santiago founded Natibu in 1995. From a

humble summer camp at the Barrigada Community Center to success on numerous international stages, the group that once consisted of only 21 students has grown into a thriving agent of CHamoru pride, learning, generosity, and excellence. Uniquely navigating a mix of CHamoru, Hawaiian, Tahitian, and Maori genres, Natibu is a visionary force in the world of traditional dance. Dr. Santiago's certifications by the late Uncle George Lanakilakeikiahiali'i Na'ope and Al Makahinu Barcarse as Kumu Hula in 1999 and 2002 respectively, further strengthen his ability to explore new opportunities for Natibu dancers to rise as champions of artistic discovery.

The numerous recognitions Natibu has garnered throughout the years illustrate the distinction with which they represent Guam. In addition to earning the Governor's arts awards and Hafa Adai spirit award, the group has obtained several top placements in the local Guahan Asia Hula Festival and Dinanña' Minagof Chamorro Dance Competitions. With Honorary 1st and Overall Championship titles at Oahu festivals including the Keiki Hula Competition, King Kamehameha Hula Competition, Hula 'Oni Festival, and the E Ho'i Mai I ka Piko Hula World Invitational, they also maintain a fine record of elevating Guam's presence among international communities. Moreover, they have tirelessly pursued greater connections with places as far as Taiwan, China, Japan, and the Philippines through various promotional collaborations with the Guam Visitors Bureau.

On behalf of the People of Guam, I would like to extend a sincere congratulations to the Natibu Dance Academy for their many years of service to our island, region, and larger Pacific family. The traditions and stories they share through the art of cultural dance admirably empower our community, enrich others, and inspire many more to similarly honor the histories inscribed on our Pacific peoples. I further commend Dr. Benjamin "Benjie" Santiago for his dedication to developing novel connections between cultural revitalization, transpacific identity, and the gifts and talents of our youth. It is truly an honor to join both Natibu and Dr. Santiago as they celebrate nearly three decades of achievements and growth, and I look forward to seeing the next chapter of their journey as they continue to elevate CHamoru and Pacific voices.

RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN APONTE

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Aponte on the occasion of her retirement from the Los Angeles Police Department. After 42 years of dedicated civic service to the people and communities of Los Angeles, Ms. Aponte will be deeply missed.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.